

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

119, No. 16

News you can use, news you can trust

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Agency may revoke well permits

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Opponents of the two deep-injection wells located on Citrin road near Interstate 94 in Romulus may have cause to celebrate.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the impending termination of federal permits granted to Environmental Disposal Systems, the former operator of the wells. This would halt the injection of hazardous waste at the site.

"When EPA issues permits, it expects companies to comply with the terms," said EPA Regional Director Mary Gade. "In this instance, EDS did not comply with the terms of its underground injection control permits. For this reason, the EPA has notified EDS that it intends to terminate its underground

injection control permits."

Pending the outcome of a public hearing, the revocation of the permits means the next operator – Environmental Geotechnologies – would have to apply for the license and go through a long approval process. The firm initially sought to transfer the existing permit.

EDS was engaged in a legal war with officials in the City of Romulus and other neighboring communities for 15 years regarding the nature of the wells. City officials have said they believe the wells to be unsafe, and that turned out to have some basis in fact when the wells were shut down in 2006 because of leaks and emissions, said Councilman William Crova.

"Hopefully, the EPA sees that our position on this has merit," he said. "We hope they will see how important it is that whoever ends up

operating the facility can do so safely."

EPA spokeswoman Phillippa Cannon said the process of approving a permit for a new company would indeed start all over again if the permits were revoked.

"We're going to solicit comments from the public at the hearing in the near future," she said. "We'll take all of the comments into account before a decision is made."

The wells have long been a sore spot for the city, which incurred about \$1 million in legal fees to attempt to block the wells from operating. Crova said he's not sure if the city has the resources to engage in another fight with Greentown businessman Jim Pappas, the owner of Environmental Geotechnologies.

"I just don't know the answer to that," he

See **Wells**, page 3

Hearing delayed in shooting

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The pre-trial court examination of three men implicated in a drive by shooting in March was postponed earlier this month.

Lawyers for Brandon Burkett, 18, of Taylor; Jamal Sam, 17, of Romulus and Anthony Harris, 17, of Romulus, agreed April 11 to postpone the hearing in front of a packed courtroom that included friends and relatives of the victim, 21-year-old Aaron McAdoo.

The hearing was delayed because one of the men – Harris – had retained his attorney just prior to the hearing. Judge David Parrott of the 34th District Court in Romulus re-scheduled the hearing for 9 a.m. on May 2.

Wayne County prosecutor Steve Taratuta also agreed to postpone the hearing. Pre-trial hearings are often postponed to give attorneys the required time to conduct discovery, officials said.

Burkett and Sam, who were silent throughout the proceeding, are charged with first-degree murder, assault with intent to murder and felony firearms. Harris is charged as an accessory after the fact for allegedly hiding the gun police believe was used to fatally wound McAdoo.

Both Burkett and Sam are

See **Death**, page 3



Yankees fly again

The new Yankee Air Museum in Belleville took flight on Monday. Hundreds attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the start of the rebirth of the museum and the visitor center, which will include the move of the original Willow Run aviation schoolhouse. The improvements are part of the estimated \$55 million, 15-year period conceptual plan to rebuild the facility destroyed in a fire in 2004, according to aviation officials. For the full story, see page 3.

Budget to be debated on May 7

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus financial staff members will present a balanced, but restrained 2007-08 budget at a public hearing on May 7.

Mayor Alan Lambert said department heads and financial officials have been meeting for several weeks to devise a \$21 million budget that makes sense and takes into consideration the overall fiscal environment in Michigan.

"It's tight, but it's balanced

and it maintains services," he said. "Putting the budget together was a big task – things are just getting more difficult overall."

Though details of the budget will be made public for the first time on May 7, it is expected to allow for few extras. The city receives about \$1 million in county parking fees that are rolled back to Romulus, which helps the city bottom line.

One expenditure is the city recreation center which is in the final phases of renovation. It will take up a larger portion of

available funds because a firm will be hired to manage the building. As part of the budget process, and overall planning for the new center, officials have worked to find new revenue streams so the center can become self-funding.

At the public hearing, residents will be able to voice their opinions about city expenditures and ask questions.

In Wayne County, governmental entities have struggled to pay

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Donation funds
new police bikes

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Feature



Veteran SWAT
officer retires

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The Scene



Pathfinder earns
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Tasteful event

Art show and dessert gala set for next weekend

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The theme will be good taste next weekend when the Belleville Area Council for the Arts and Belleville High School once again combine art and sweets for the annual scholarship art show and dessert gala.

Area restaurants contribute confections to the dessert gala that will take place at 8 p.m. on April 28. The art show is scheduled for 10-5 p.m. on April 28 and 29. The art show is an established program that recognizes art within the community, according to Barbara Rogalle Miller, a member of the area council for the arts.

"It's not only a recognition of our students artists, but it also shows the strong interest the community has in art," she said. "It's a popular event."

Working together with the Van Buren Public School District, the arts council started the program in 1994 to celebrate and inspire young artists and recognize them with honors and scholarships.

"We started this shortly after the arts council formed," said Rogalle Miller. "It's also a fundraiser for the group."

Both events will take place at the Belleville High School food service center and will fund a \$1,000 scholarship for a high school senior with the best portfolio of three or more works. A \$500 savings bond will also be presented to the Best of Show student, as well as awards for first, second and third place. Merit ribbons will be given to all grade levels.

According to Rogalle Miller, the event attracts more than 1,000 entries from students, who also have the opportunity to sell their work at the show.

More than 30 Belleville area celebrities and art professionals will do the formal judging.

"There will also be door prizes from many local venues," said Rogalle Miller.

The arts council also invited the Belleville Community Chorus to perform during the dessert gala.

Tickets for the desert gala are \$20 and can be purchased at the law office of Rogalle Miller, located at 321 Main St. in Belleville. Discount tickets for the gala will also be offered at \$5 for the student artists and their parents and siblings at the door. The art show is free.



Pedal patrol

The Wal-Mart in Belleville recently donated \$2000 to the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department for police bikes. Officers will have two new fully-marked, 27-speed bikes equipped especially for police use purchased with the donated funds. Lt. Ernie Thornsby, bike program lieutenant; Sgt. Bart Devos, bike unit supervisor; Ofc. James Miller; Adrian Garza, store manager; and Wal-Mart employees April Warner, Shannon Hasley, Judy Gibson and Alicia Zonca were present for the donation.

Relay for Life to host fundraiser tonight

Relay For Life to host fundraiser tonight

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life Belleville will host a fundraiser workshop from 6-7 p.m. today at Van Buren Township Hall.

Registered teams or anyone

interested should attend. So far, 22 teams have committed to the event, according to organizers.

The relay will take place from 10 a.m. on June 2 to 10 a.m. on June 3 at Belleville High School. The team captain meetings will take place from 7-8 p.m.

on May 2 and May 17 at township hall.

For more information, contact Cheryl Gniewek at (248) 483-4348. Donations and registration can also be done online at www.acsevents.org/relay/mi/belleville.

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Candidate says experience matters on school board

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Niema White said experience makes all the difference when tackling issues facing school districts today.

White, who is vying for a second four-year term on the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education, said she believes having already experienced the learning curve of serving in public office, and working in the public sector during the day, gives her an edge over the other two candidates seeking the spot.

“We are learning to do more with less,” she said. “Having to deal with budget cutbacks and constraints is a big part of being on the school board. I’ve been doing that for almost five years now.”

White was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board in 2002. With about a year as a board member under her belt, White then campaigned for a full term, and won the seat. Since then, she’s been embroiled in the key issues facing Romulus schools, and several other districts, for that matter.

“Balancing the budget has to be the first priority,” she said. “We’re facing a loss in revenue that could be up to \$60 per student.”

If elected, White said she would continue to thoughtfully make budgetary decisions and explore ways to raise academic standards along with her fellow board members.

“We had several achievements as a board that I was a part of during the past four years,” she said.

“We balanced the budget and maintained programs. We also (refurbished) the football field at the high school – that was a big achievement.”

White also said enrollment, even though it’s not where district officials would like it to be, has stabilized in the past four years. She added that additional Schools of Choice programs, which would allow more out-of-district students to attend the schools, might help bring more funding to the district.

“Right now we have limited Schools of Choice at two school at the elementary level,” she said. “It’s a good start, but we may need to open more seats, and open (Schools of Choice) up to the middle school.”

During the day, White also works in education. She

employed by Wayne County Headstart, where she administers programming to several budding students. She said many of the issues faced by Headstart are the same ones she encounters as a board member.

“The schools have per-pupil funding, and so does Headstart,” she said.

White said she believes the schools are on the right track, and have been able to weather a difficult fiscal storm.

“The biggest challenge of the next four years will be being able to work with less, and still deliver outstanding services,” she said.

White notes that under her tenure on the board, two schools within the district have been designated as outstanding by receiving blue ribbons from the Michigan Department of



Niema White

Education.

White sought a Romulus City Council seat in 2005, but was unsuccessful in that bid.

White has lived in Romulus for six years.

The school board election is May 8.

News in brief

Tournament will help animals

Supporters of the new Romulus Animal Shelter have planned another bowling fundraiser to generate money to build the new structure.

The “9 Pin No Tap Tournament” will take place April 27 at the Romulus Lanes bowling alley, which is located at 37452 West Huron River Dr.

The funds raised will go directly to a fund established to build the shelter. So far, about \$80,000 of the needed \$250,000 has been donated, according to Councilman William Wadsworth, who organized the fundraising campaign. In-kind building services have also been donated, and the structure is now in the design phase.

Registration for the tournament is preferred. To register, call (734) 941-622 or (734) 941-0616.

Self defense, stranger danger class set

The Romulus Recreation Department will teach adults and children how to be a little more aware of their surroundings this spring with a series of classes.

Stranger danger and self defense classes will take place Wednesday nights. The classes will continue from 6-7 p.m., and will take place at the department offices, at 11189 Shook Road in Romulus.

Both adult and child issues will be addressed during the classes, and anyone 3 years old to adult will learn something at the classes, said Kristin Irwin, the director of Romulus Parks and Recreation.

No pre-registration is required, and classes cost \$7 for a six-week session.

For more information, call the Romulus Recreation Department at (734) 941-8665.

Much-loved museum will re-open

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The new Yankee Air Museum in Belleville took flight on Monday.

Hundreds attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the start of many milestones in the rebirth of the museum and the visitor center, which will include the move of the original Willow Run aviation schoolhouse.

“It’ll still be awhile till it’s open, but I’m tickled to death with the accomplishments in the past two years,” said Jon Stevens, vice-president of the museum. “Four years ago we were talking about the schoolhouse. Next, will be the official visitors center and the museum built to maintain the flavor and flare of a 1940s hangar.”

That’s just part of the estimated \$55 million, 15-year period conceptual plan to rebuild the facility destroyed in a fire in 2004, according to aviation officials.

“The future was always building a new facility and campus, unfortunately, much was lost and we had to regroup across the

”

Basically we had to re-invent the wheel and we came back much stronger and more united.

Jon Stevens

board,” said Gayle Roberts, curator of the museum.

“The old hangar had its share of problems both structural and environmental. Obviously, the building wasn’t fire proof,” said Stevens. “Basically we had to re-invent the wheel and we came back much stronger and more united.”

Like the phoenix rising from the ashes, they said, overall officials hope to come back with a hotel and conference center, an historic airpark, an aerospace library, a restaurant, a theater, an aviation high school, an aircraft hangar, a restoration and operations facility, and an innovation center.

“Right after the fire, it only took a moment to decide it was time for us to rebuild,” said Dick Stewart, president of the museum. “Everyone dug their heels in and said we’re going to make this

work.”

Besides the many artifacts, books, photographs and other memorabilia that has been donated, many patrons have made cash contributions. The efforts of Dave and Andrea Robertson, who donated \$600,000 for the schoolhouse, General Motors, which donated \$2 million and, with the help of the Michigan Aerospace Foundation were instrumental in the progress of the rebuilding, according to Dennis Norton, president of the foundation.

“Here is the moment of rebirth,” said member Bob Hynes.

“A lot of members left after the fire because they thought we would never come back from it, but we were bound to not let that happen,” said Stevens. “We lost stuff, we lost a building, but not the desire for the museum.”

Budget

FROM PAGE 1

bills and maintain staffing and service levels. At the Romulus Community School District, board members may be forced to lay off several teachers because of proposed cuts in per-pupil

funding.

Other cities have struggled, too. Voters in Inkster last year approved a tax increase to fund the city parks and senior services, which faced elimination because of a budget shortfall.

The budget will likely take several forms before the seven-member council approves it.

Public comments about the

budget will be taken into consideration, and possibly implemented, before the budget is approved, Lambert said.

A final version must be approved by the city council by June 30, according to state law.

Once approved, the budget will be available to the public at the city clerk’s office and the Romulus Public Library.

Death

FROM PAGE 1

being held at the Wayne County Jail without bond, and Harris is free on bail.

The shooting that led to charges against the three teens occurred in the afternoon hours of March 26 at the Sky Harbor Apartments near Eureka and Brandt roads.

According to Det. Joshua Monte of the Romulus Police Department, an argument between two groups of men about girls broke out, and Burkett and Sam came back to the scene in a silver Dodge Charger and fired shots into several apartments. Harris was in a

vehicle that followed the two teens.

McAdoo arrived at the apartments to visit a friend and play basketball after the argument and before the shooting, and had nothing to do with the argument that led to the fight police said.

After the shooting, the three men agreed to hide the weapon at Harris’ home, according to police reports.

Family members of the victim and the three accused teens left the courtroom without speaking to the media after the postponement.

If convicted, Burkett and Sam face a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. Harris will face five years in prison if convicted of the accessory charge.

Wells

FROM PAGE 1

said. “We, at this point, can only wait and see what happens. What I can say is that we’ve always been against it, we’re still against it, and we’ll continue to be involved.”

The prospect of a permit revocation also looms large for the Detroit Police and Fire Pension

Fund, which has invested \$40 million in the wells. If the permit were transferred, it would make it easier for the fund to recoup its investment, but if it’s revoked, the wells would likely not be able to operate.

Ron King, an attorney who represents the pension fund, did not return calls seeking comment for this story.

The EPA originally granted EDS permits in 1998, and renewed those permits in 2004.

When the firm was fined \$73,000 for violations in October 2006, the pension fund fired the company.

EDS officials and members of the public will have an opportunity to speak at a public hearing on April 23. The meeting will take place from 6-9 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Detroit, 8000 Merriman Road in Romulus.

A public comment period for individuals who cannot attend the meeting will take place from April 23 to June 8.

Tactical to sabbatical

Long time police veteran retires from Northville Township

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Northville Township Police Department has changed a lot since Lt. John Sherman came on board.

The township as a whole has changed since 1977 and Sherman had seen most of it, including the overall evolution of the department.

"He's seen the good times and the bad times," said John Werth, current director of public safety for Northville Township. "It's dedication like his that is the reason we have a department like we do today."

Sherman retired recently after a 30-year career with the township police department. It was a career that included virtually every assignment within the department—and beyond.

"It's a good feeling," said Sherman of his newfound leisure time. "I'm sure there are days when I'll miss some aspects of the job. More than anything else, I miss the camaraderie."

Sherman started to work in the Northville community in 1975, when he was a part-time officer for the City of Northville. He signed on to work in the township department on March 11, 1977—only five years after the township formed its own department.

"He was there back in the days when our officers were fighting to get radios," said Chip Snider, township manager and former police chief and director of public safety.

Sherman became adept at helping new things get going. In

1984, the Board of Western Wayne Police Chiefs was contemplating a regional tactical response squad. The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team was formed in 1985 and Sherman was not only the first officer trained for it, he was tapped to lead it.

"There was no such thing at the time," said Sherman, who counts the formation of the unit as the most rewarding experience of his career. "The primary responsibility would fall to the Michigan State Police. Their response time was a little long and the chiefs were looking for more."

Sherman served as leader of the special operations team from 1985-2002. He developed the standards used to select officers, the operational procedures, training procedures and more. He was determined to select officers off a level playing field—ensuring that only the best of the best were selected from participating department.

"Everyone was in a constant state of probation," Sherman said.

"Anytime you did anything that would discredit the unit—on duty or off duty—could result in being removed from the team."

"It was quite a responsibility," he added. "It was very challenging."

Sherman became widely known for his competence in the field as well as through the special operations team. Snider said his reputation rubbed off on the township department, too.

"His expertise extended far

beyond our borders," Snider said. "He was probably one of the finest ambassadors we've ever had here in Northville Township. I had requests for him to come and train officers from chiefs throughout western Wayne County—and beyond. He put the Northville Township Public Safety Department at the top of the best seller list."

He was respected by the members of the team, too. The SWAT unit draws a member from participating departments throughout western Wayne.

"He was a pretty tough taskmaster, but he never asked any one of the guys to do anything that he couldn't do," said Tony DeGiusti, deputy police chief in the City of Wayne. DeGiusti served on the SWAT team for more than a decade, beginning in 1990.

"He set the standard and everyone else just tried to keep up," DeGiusti added.

"He didn't have one area of expertise; he was an expert on everything."

The Northville Township Board of Trustees will honor Sherman's service at the regular meeting tonight.

Sherman said he was just happy to serve and is looking forward to the next stage in his career. It won't be that far removed from the previous one, as it turns out, although it will probably require less time dressed in a bullet proof vest. Sherman said he plans to become a full-time tactical training instructor.

"I'll be out of it, but not completely out of it," he said.



Times have changed since Lt. John Sherman joined the Northville Township Police Department 30 years ago. As commander of the western Wayne County special operations team, (right), Sherman would not ask anyone to do anything he could not—including repelling down a high-rise apartment building.

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Medical expert College professor brings worldwide experience to local classrooms

Andrea King
Staff Writer

It's safe to say that Dr. Mark Shikhman has come a long way in the field of medicine.

The Russian-born surgeon is now the director of the surgical technology department at the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD).

As a general surgeon, certified surgical assistant, research scientist, author and a medical school professor, Shikhman's dedicated to the medical profession; something he knew he wanted to be a part of since he was a child, he said.

"Somehow I got a hold of a book about a young surgeon in medical school and this occupied my mind," Shikhman said. "After a trip to the hospital it crossed my mind that I didn't want to do anything else."

Shikhman then became that young surgeon himself.

He trained at the famous Chelyabinsk State Medical School in Russia and was a surgeon by age 26. After working just three years, though, he realized his education was limited and he needed to go back to school for his Ph.D.

"I decide to go to St. Petersburg Institute of Oncology in Russia to study pancreatic surgery," he said. "At the time they didn't know much about it and still don't. We also had a specific hospital just for that."

It was there that Shikhman became chief of surgery and performed experimental surgeries and procedures. However, when political issues became an increasing concern in his native land, Shikhman decided to move to the United States. That was in 1994.

"My wife's family was in New York so it was easy to pick-up and go there," he said. "I didn't speak English, but I could read because of my research work. I felt like I was in a vacuum because I didn't know anyone."

Out of frustration, Shikhman bought plane tickets to go back to Russia, but couldn't do it, he said, because of his twins—Maxsim and Lana.

"Family and heritage is extremely important to me, but I wanted my kids to have the language, background and opportunity of America," he said.

Shikhman started working at a local pharmacy as a counter clerk, which also happened to be in a Russian community. In the meantime, he sent out his resume and received a call from the Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital and Medical Center in Michigan. It was only a three-month assignment, but things went well and he was asked to stay longer. Shikhman then moved his family from New York to Michigan.

From Henry Ford Hospital, Shikhman quickly moved up to surgical assistant at Oakwood Hospital and a teacher at the WCCCD.

"That's when my life totally changed," he said. "It brought me back to life and gave me energy."

Shikhman, 54, started teaching at the downtown campus in 2001, but was moved to the western campus after they realized the need for the surgical technology program, particularly, the surgical first assistant program.

The program at the college is now one of four in the country to offer central service technician,

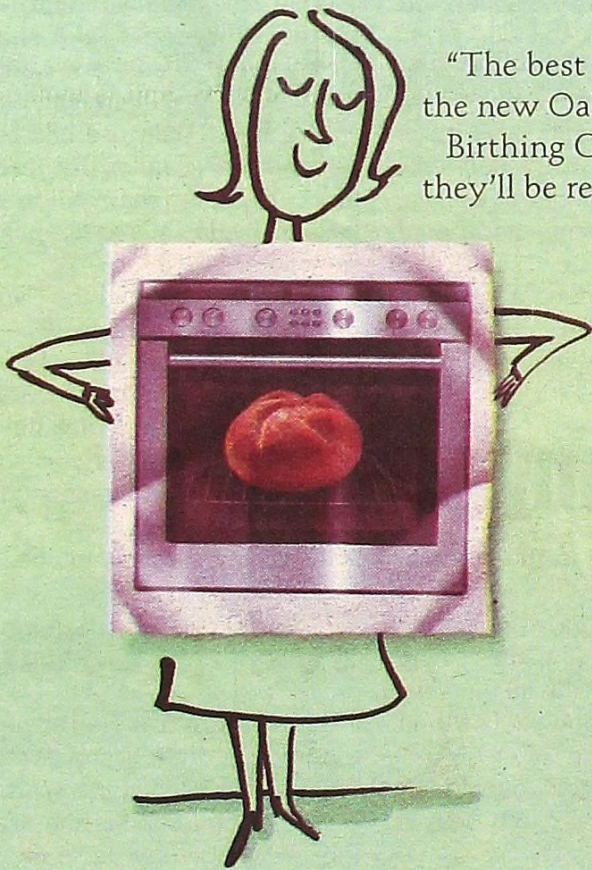
surgical technology, accelerated alternate delivery certificate program and surgical first assistant classes.

"Before 2001, the college didn't have the resources before the millage passed. The millage gave the muscle needed to run," said Vidya Moorthy, spokesperson for the western campus. "Dr. Curtis Ivery has since created programs and brought in experts where students can find jobs and have their needs met. This program is an example of that being done."

"The future of surgical technology will be at the top of popularity," said Shikhman.



Dr. Mark Shikhman is the director of the surgical technology department at the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD).



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OPINION

Leadership by example

It's rather ironic that our leaders in Lansing are preaching inter-governmental cooperation.

We're paraphrasing here, but they've essentially said that the way for municipalities to get by during this stagnant economy is to try to work together to provide services or make large purchases. The concept is that we're all in this together.

It is a strange thought from a group of leaders who can't even get along with themselves.

Let's take stock of the current environment in cities and school districts throughout western Wayne County—and everywhere else, too, for that matter.

Most cities are about to enter their annual budget cycle. School districts are nearing the end of one year and officials are trying to plan for the next. At the same time, neither entity knows exactly how much funding they'll receive from the State of Michigan—if they get any at all.

School district officials have heard numbers of reductions of anywhere from \$34 per pupil to \$125 per pupil. City officials are shuddering over a plan to reduce state shared revenue by about \$40 million statewide—at the same time legislators are talking about reducing personal property taxes and granting other tax incentives to businesses. Those are cuts that may help the business climate overall, but they don't spread much help anywhere else.

At the same time, some Lansing officials are promoting some kind of tax increase—whether it be on gasoline, services or income—that throws additional uncertainty into the economy.

Needless to say, state officials have no evident problem in shoving their problems off onto the locals. Take a look at the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital property in Northville Township, for example. In order to shore up a budget shortfall—two years ago—the state put this piece of property on the market at an inflated rate and then more or less expected the township or the developer to clean up the mess left behind.

Other communities—like the City of Wayne, for example—have been forced to cut so much from their own budget that they're trying to approve a millage to fund needed roadwork. Officials there know they won't get any help from the state. They know they can't coerce \$20 million out of their own budget and yet, the approval of this millage may hinge on whether residents will have to pay some additional taxes elsewhere.

Working together to solve the budget crisis is indeed a laudable idea. It's probably the only way things will get done. But, with little of that cooperation being seen in Lansing, it's time for legislators to practice what they preach.

Apathy is the enemy

It seems there's not too many people interested in the political scene in the City of Belleville.

When the deadline expired for interested residents to apply for a vacant seat on the city council, only two had put their names in the proverbial hat—Marian Lloyd-Caldwell and former council member Kerreen Conley. Conley decided not to seek re-election the last time she was up, but apparently has changed her mind.

She has also been opposed to the hiring of former Councilman Walter Mears as the Belleville City Manager. Mears' empty seat is what the council is trying to fill now.

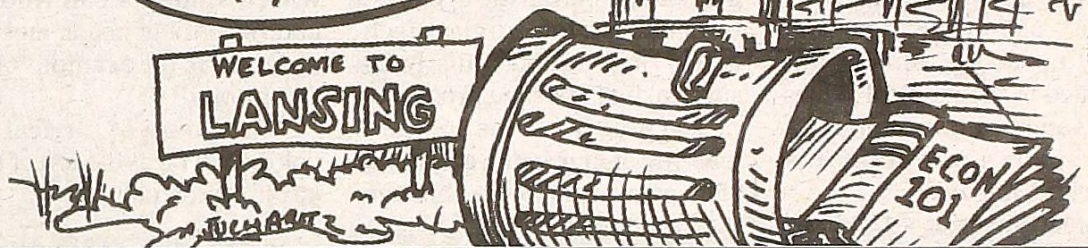
It's a little surprising that so few people showed interest in the post. These usually garner more attention, because it's an easy way to get a leg up on the competition during the next election cycle,

See **Council**, page 7

GIVEN THAT:

- TAX CUTS = HISTORICALLY INCREASE REVENUE TO THE GOVERNMENT...
- TAX CUTS = PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH...
- TAX CUTS = PROMOTE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT...
- TAX CUTS = CREATE A FAVORABLE BUSINESS CLIMATE...
- TAX CUTS = PROMOTE PRIVATE INVESTMENT...

I KNOW!! WE SHOULD RAISE TAXES!!



Getting what you ask for

Two recent proposals by Oakwood Hospital showed the difference in attitudes in western Wayne County—and the perceptions of different neighborhoods.

They also highlight the frustration I feel watching developments take shape in places like Northville, Plymouth and Canton compared to the way they happen in my hometown of Wayne.

In Canton, Oakwood had proposed a sprawling new medical complex that included a new ambulatory care center and medical offices followed by a hospital facility in a future phase—if officials could show a need for it.

In order to get into the Canton community, and in part to appease the neighbors, Oakwood officials were prepared to bend over backwards and jump through hurdles. They revised their initial plan; they set up a web site detailing the proposal. They promised huge buffer zones and wide swaths of green space—a development the entire community could be proud of.

In Wayne, officials pitched an idea for a 2,000

square foot expansion at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in the form of a new MRI center.

We were lucky to get them to fix the sidewalks out front—which, by the way, lead to a middle school.

Now, you could make the argument that any investment in the community at a time like this is a good thing. Oakwood has invested plenty in Annapolis Hospital of late, more than \$40 million in the form of a new surgery center, renovations to the emergency room as well as the birthing center and now this latest proposal. You'd be right, too. It's a good thing and it shows that the hospital will remain in the community, no matter what plans the top brass might have for other sites.

They need to do those things to stay competitive, though. They're investing in the community because they have to invest in their own facilities. If they wanted to present a stronger corporate image here, it wouldn't cost much to put in a few more

See **Oakwood**, page 7

Your presence is requested

During my travels through western Wayne County, I'm often asked two questions about my work for *The Journal Newspapers*.

The first question is how are you (and the rest of the staff) able to write so much each week? The second question is how do you put up with those boring city commission and township trustee meetings?

OK. I acknowledge a meeting involving parking rates or changes in community isn't as exciting as being in Comerica Park with Justin Verlander taking a no-hitter into the eighth inning. However, it is these "boring" meetings that keep services running in the community.

Just imagine living in a community without sewer lines or noise ordinances?

Usually a small number of concerned citizens, municipal employees and those of us in the media attend. Perhaps that's due to the meetings being televised on cable. Then again, Piston, Red Wings and Tigers games are regularly televised and fans still drive to Auburn Hills and downtown Detroit to be there.

I urge more people to come to the meetings.

These public meetings give taxpayers an opportunity to have a discussion with their representatives about the affairs of the community. Residents can't ask a question of the mayor or township supervisor through the television.

In smaller communities, officials have to work full-time jobs while meeting their political obligations. Yes, this is the responsibility they asked for.

However, it has to be frustrating to make decisions at these meetings and then hear no public response during the time the public is encouraged to provide input.

A public hearing is scheduled to debate every ordinance change or major decision. Sadly, the hearing ends as fast as it starts because no one is there to speak.

It may be too late to turn some adults into consistent attendees and participants, but community organizations are working hard to help our next generations understand their importance.

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce along with both Plymouth elected bodies sponsor programs to educate local youth about government functions and participation.

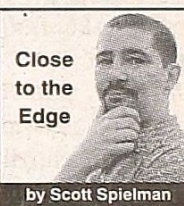
Their goal is to expose our future leaders to the process so they will become responsible and participating citizens in the future discussions impacting the city, township, county and state.

Some of the youth may grow up to be the next trustees and commissioners. Others may just be hardworking taxpayers with a desire to actively participate in government.

All participation is important to keep our system working.

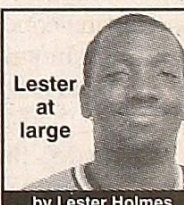
Discussions about water rates, sewer lines, road maintenance projects, joint operations agreements and committee assignments are the backbone of government.

A lesson well worth learning, and repeating.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman



Lester at large

by Lester Holmes

JOURNAL
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Letters

Road millage supported

To the editor,
The upcoming May 8 road millage in Wayne is very important to the future of Wayne.
The condition of our neighborhood roads and sidewalks is not good. The average age of our paved roads is 45 years. We need to invest in repairing and repaving our roads and sidewalks now. If we wait, then our roads and sidewalks will rapidly get worse. Addressing this problem in the future would certainly be much more expensive than the 1 mill for 25 year

road millage on the ballot May 8.
Please join with us on May 8th in voting for the road millage.

Sue and Albert Damitio,
Wayne

Grandfather defends movie

To the editor:
I just yesterday picked up a copy of The Eagle dated April 5, 2007 and saw your review of Meet the Robinsons.
I am a 51-year-old grandfather and I took my grandson to

see this movie a couple of days after it came out. He enjoyed it very much and wants to see it again. While in the theater watching the movie I could hear many adults laughing and enjoying the movie.
One of the things I like to hear my friends say to me is that I still have a lot of kid in me. It makes me happy to have people see that in me and in this crazy, high speed everything society we live in today it is great. In my job I deal with many people daily on a one on one basis and it is important to be adult. One of the greatest pleasures I have,

though, is being with my grandson and letting that kid out.
In the final comment in your article you say "If adults go to this hoping to be entertained, here's some advice: bring a book or take a nap." I can see that you did see it through the eyes of an adult.
There is time to be an adult even with your kids, but more important there is time to be a kid when you are an adult and see things like movies through those eyes before judging things.
I love the kid in me because it helps in this crazy world to

remember the little things and little ones in life that make it good.

Bob Oliver

Send us
your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

Council

FROM PAGE 6

given how incumbents tend to be re-elected.
Perhaps not many people applied because they thought the decision had already been

made—that the application process was just a matter of the council going through the motions.
Or perhaps there's generally just not a lot of interest in the workings of Belleville city government.
That, too, is a shame, because there are plenty of difficult

issues facing the city—from the upcoming budget season to planning for the future, improving communication throughout the city and finding out ways to reduce costs.
Maybe that

should be a goal the council should tack on their long list of things to address: to engage the

public in the process and cultivate the next generation of leadership.

Oakwood

FROM PAGE 6

shrubs, some additional landscaping and work proactively with the city to clean up the sidewalk and their crummy parking lot—or to get someone to clean up the graffiti sprayed all over their laundry facility at the back of the building. They could make it a place of pride, not just a place holder.
The most troubling thing to me is that no one on the planning commission asked

for any additional improvements. That's the difference between Wayne and places like Canton and Northville Township—their planning commissions always push for more. Even if they won't get it; even if their ordinances dictate that they don't have the right to ask for it, they still ask for it. They apply pressure in the implication that the business will do better if it looks nicer.
Our leaders here in Wayne say they're trying to raise the bar, too. But if our major corporate citizens won't lead by example and if our officials won't push them, who will lead the way?

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THE SCENE



Reviewed By
Luke Warm
Staff Writer

PATHFINDER

Savage film merits 'luke warm' review

All advertisements for the film *Pathfinder* mention that it is rated R because of pervasive violence.

This is not by accident.

The film, which opened Friday, tells the story of a legendary—or mythical—Ghost Warrior that nearly single-handedly repels a Viking invasion in America, 500 years before Columbus 'discovers' the continent.

We feel every bone-jarring sword stroke and sternum-shattering arrow strike, too.

The film opens when a Native American woman, following a vision of a white horse, stumbles upon a wrecked Viking longship. Amid the corpses and lost loot, she finds a shivering boy, scarred from the touch of a whip on his back, and takes him back to her village.

She convinces her tribe—barely—to take the boy in, even though they are concerned that he will grow up and embrace the evil of his fathers, the dragon-men.

Fifteen years later, Ghost (Karl Urban) is living among the natives and yet apart from them. Like Rudolph, he's not permitted to join in any of the local games. He may have attracted the attention of beautiful young Starfire (Moon Bloodgood), but he can't do much about it, since she is the daughter of the Pathfinder (Russell Means), the holy man of the tribe.

Pathfinder has problems of his own. A wet spring brought down an avalanche on four of his tribe's hunting parties, killing most of them—including the young man he had been grooming to succeed him.

On top of that, the Vikings have returned, led by a growling Gunnar (who else but Clancy Brown, who was so effective as the immortal Kurgan in *Highlander*). They want to cleanse the land of 'savages' before they settle there.

Gunnar and his raiding party destroy one village and all the inhabitants, but Ghost shows up and—after he shows that

he's quite handy with a Viking blade—earns the ire of the war tribe, the hunt is on. That's the way of movie villains like this: they feel no compunction about slaughtering oh, about 30 innocent people, but cut down one of their own and take an eye from someone else, and then you're the one that's in trouble.

Ghost and Starfire flee and with the help of Pathfinder and another Native American, manage to fight a guerilla war against the Vikings—for a while at least. They are eventually captured, Pathfinder and the other native are killed, and Ghost and Starfire have to find a way to save the rest of their people.

Some things are done well in *Pathfinder*. The film depicts the savagery of the Vikings—down to their fearsome outfits and ominous longboats—the way they must have seemed to their hapless victims. They did not appear as men, but as horrifying creatures covered in spikes and horns with weapons that could

cleave through spears as easily as they severed heads and detached limbs. The action scenes—those that could be followed—were well choreographed and visceral. The scenery itself was at times breathtaking—as when the harsh winter wind changed the landscape of a tree-covered mountainside in seconds.

The dialogue could have used a little more editing, though. In a story that takes place 500 years before Columbus set foot on American soil, I could go without the modern speech.

Brown's career has been eclectic, indeed. His current day job is to provide the voice for Mr. Krabs in *Spongebob Squarepants*, but he shows that he still has the might and presence to swing a whopping great sword, if need be.

Likewise Urban, who garnered recognition in the second two *Lord of the Rings* films, proves quite capable in the sword wielding, skull-cleaving genre, too.

Pathfinder is not a great movie, but it's interesting enough and worth a look

High marks

Barth Elementary School wins honors from state educators

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Barth Elementary School in Romulus took honors for parental and community involvement programs last week from the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).

The school, along with three others, was honored with the "Excellence in Education" award in the parental involvement category. Barth officials will learn this fall if they will receive the top prize of \$1,500 from the professional association.

"We've received awards from MASB before," said Diane Golka, the principal of Barth.

"I'm excited about this one more than the other awards because the programs brought the community into the fold," she added.

The association named 27 schools as honorees in several categories. The winning programs were chosen from schools

from the Upper Peninsula to Southeast Michigan. Justin King, the executive director of MASB, said the award is given to schools that strive to make education more accessible for students, parents and teachers.

"These programs take a unique approach to making education relevant and the impact of student achievement is evident," he said. "(The programs) show the power in believing in a quality education for all."

The staff at Barth has worked hard to right what was a flailing ship only eight years ago. The Michigan Department of Education considered the school to be failing due to faltering test scores. Enrollment had dropped, and staff members' morale was low. As a general rule, there was little parent involvement at Barth, officials said.

Shortly thereafter, Parents, Teachers and Community for Children (PTC) was created to spur involvement and solicit

“

I'm excited about this one more than the other awards because the programs brought the community into the fold.

Diane Golka

new ideas regarding the schools, Golka said. The goal of the program is to create a relationship between the parents and the staff to further support educational activities.

The PTC is founded on the principle that each parent should volunteer a predetermined number of hours each year, which vastly increased the number of parent hours at the school. According to district numbers, volunteerism increased from 18 percent to more than 74 percent

since the implementation of the PTC.

Michigan Education Assessment Test scores have also improved, and the school was awarded Blue Ribbon designation from the state.

Each school that ranked among the top three in each category will receive a trophy for their school and a metal street sign declaring the facility an "Education Excellence Winner." Winners will receive the trophy May 8 at an association luncheon.

An independent panel of state education specialists judged the entrants. The parameters of the winning entrants' programs will be entered into a database on the MASB web site so that other schools can use the information to engage in similar projects.

Barth was one of two entities in Wayne County that received the award. The Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency also received an award.

Sponsors needed for auction

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Belleville Bands Boosters are still seeking donations for the 'Rock Around the Clock' auction.

The event will begin with the silent auction at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the live auction following the dinner at the Holiday Inn Express in Belleville on May 4.

Sponsorship opportunities include: \$150-\$5,000 packages with different recog-

nition and event passes. All contributors of \$350 or more are invited to a VIP reception from 5-6 p.m. before the auction.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include the open bar. Proceeds will go toward the chamber building fund and the band uniforms.

The reservation deadline is tomorrow. For more information contact the chamber at (734) 697-7151.

Foundation awards grant funds

The Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation has awarded another round of grant funds to schools.

The grants were awarded to: Rawsonville Elementary School will receive \$2,000 to go toward computers, Tyler Elementary School will receive \$900 for an after school study hall program, Edgemont Elementary school will receive \$2,000 for the "Study Island" enrollment program, Belleville

High School will receive \$2,500 for the "Algebra is Cool" math program and Savage Elementary will receive \$2,000 for the "Reading is Me" program.

The foundation was able to fund 18 of the more than 60 applications for their recent grant process. The next grants will be awarded in the fall. For more information, contact the education foundation at the district administration building.

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SPORTS

Home on the 'Rangers'

Whalers beat Kitchener, advance to conference finals

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Friday night was business as usual for the Plymouth Whalers hockey team.

The team suited up for game five of the Western conference semifinals at home and sent the Kitchener Rangers packing, 4-1.

The victory put an end to the best-of-seven series, 4-1, giving the Whalers plenty of time to rest up for the conference finals against London. The Knights defeated Sault Ste. Marie in seven games to earn their own spot in the finals.

The conference finals will start at 7 p.m. tonight in London. The Whalers are at home at 7:05 p.m. on Friday and on Tuesday.

In game five against Kitchener, the Whalers spread the scoring around like butter on hot toast—the way they have all season. In nine playoff games, the Whalers scored 38 goals with the leading scorers—Tom Sestito and James Neal—each banging in seven.

"That's been the key for us all year," said Whaler Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "We don't have to count on one guy; we score by committee. We have four or five lines that can produce and teams don't know who to play against."

Plymouth got production from Sestito, Evan Brophey, Chris Terry and Andrew Fournier in the semifinal finisher.

Plymouth took a 1-0 lead in the first period with a short-handed goal by Sestito at 3:54 after Kitchener goalie John Murray mishandled the puck. Sestito took advantage and batted the puck home.

In the second, Brophey had a second opportunity when he was

awarded a penalty shot at 9:59 after he was dumped in the Kitchener slot by defender Dan Kelly. He made good on the chance and the Whalers were up, 2-0.

Jakub Kindl cut the Whalers' lead in half when he scored the Rangers' lone goal on a power play at 13:44 mark. With 3:23 left to play in the second frame, Terry—off a pass from Dan Collins from behind the Kitchener net—top-shelved his shot past first period replacement goalie Charles Lavigne.

Fournier finished off the scoring at 8:36 of the third frame.

Although the scoring was on point for the Whalers, it was goaltending that burned the Rangers. Kitchener outshot Plymouth, 31-24, but Plymouth goaltender Michal Neuvirth held steady for the team. The rookie goalie stopped all but one shot and was named the game's first star for his performance.

The Whalers made the playoffs seem easy so far as they've skated through them with an 8-1 record, sweeping the Guelph Storm in the first round and taking a 3-0 game-lead against Kitchener before the Rangers pulled out a game-four win.

It has been anything but easy, said Vellucci.

"Every game has been played," he said. "We've had three overtime games and nothing is easy in the playoffs. There are three things that are always talked about during the playoffs. Those are injuries, bounces and goaltending. So far we've been lucky with all three."

Whalers 2, Rangers 4

The Kitchener Rangers avoided elimination last Tuesday when they beat the visiting Whalers, 4-3, in game four of the Western Conference semi-

finals.

Kitchener outshot the Whalers 50-31 in the contest.

Kevin Henderson scored twice while Steve Downie and Matt Martello added single scores. Kindl assisted on three goals and Justin Azevedo two.

Special teams were key for the Rangers, who went 3-for-12 on the power play and added a short-handed goal.

Martello scored the lone goal in the first period when Kindl's initial shot ricocheted off the boards to a waiting Martello.

Henderson scored a short-handed goal at 2:30 of the second period and Downie made it a 3-0 game at 7:15. Less than two minutes later Collins cut into the lead with a low shot from the left circle.

Henderson gave the Rangers back their three-goal lead when he deflected Kindl's shot past Neuvirth at 8:02 of the third. Terry narrowed the gap again at the 16:16 mark. Vellucci pulled Neuvirth with 1:53 left in the game, but the Whalers couldn't whittle the lead down any further.

Rangers 4, Whalers 5 (OT)

The Whalers took a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinal with a 5-4 overtime win over the Kitchener Rangers last Tuesday.

Fournier's goal 42 seconds into overtime snapped a 4-4 tie to beat the visiting Rangers.

Fournier took a waist-high swing at the puck from the left faceoff circle and beat Kitchener goaltender Murray top shelf.

Sestito, Daniel Ryder, Brophey and Terry all scored for Plymouth, who came back four separate times to tie the game. Downie scored twice for Kitchener, while Matt Halischuk and Dan Kelly each added one.

Whaler goalie Michal Neuvirth and defender Brett Bellemore (2) make a stop against the Kitchener Rangers' offense in game three at the Compuware Sports Arena last week. Plymouth won the game and the series and will play in the Western Conference championship series this week.

Photo by Ken Garner



Photo by Jeff Novak

Vellucci voted OHL Coach of the Year

Early last week Plymouth Whaler Head Coach Michael Vellucci was named the Ontario Hockey League's 2006-2007 Matt Leyden Trophy winner as the Coach of the Year.

Vellucci, a 40-year-old native of Farmington, MI, is a graduate of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) having spent three seasons as a defenseman for the Belleville Bulls. Vellucci guided the Whalers to a 49-14-2-3 record this season, the most wins in his OHL coaching career, while capturing the Bumbacco Trophy West Division Championship for the second consecutive year. Vellucci has coached the Whalers for five seasons and has an overall coaching record of 228-124-38-18.

"It's a nice honor," Vellucci said, "but my assistant coach Todd Watson deserves a lot of the credit—along with the players and how they are playing. I would gladly trade it for a Championship."

The honor places Vellucci in some good company. Past winners include: Dale Hunter, Brian Kilrea, Craig Hartsburg, Jacques Martin, George Armstrong and Terry Crisp.

Vellucci received 53 points in the voting process, followed by Mike Kelly of the Mississauga IceDogs with 35 points and Dave Barr (last year's recipient) of the Guelph Storm with 26 points.

Vellucci is the Ontario Hockey League nominee for the Go RVing Brian Kilrea CHL Coach of the Year Award.



Neuvirth is OHL Goaltender of the Year almost

Plymouth Whalers goaltender Michal Neuvirth finished second in this season's Ontario Hockey League Goaltender of the Year voting, behind London goaltender Steve Mason.

Neuvirth—a second round pick (34th overall) of the National Hockey League's Washington Capitals—compiled a 2.32 goals-against average and led the OHL during the regular season with a .932 save percentage. Along with goalie Jeremy Smith, the Whalers led the OHL in team defense this season in allowing 173 goals over 68 games.

"He's had a great year for us," said Plymouth Coach Mike Vellucci, also the team's general manager and president.

It was tough competition as Mason posted an impressive 45-13-1-3 record along with a 3.20 goals against average and a .914 save percentage in 62 games this season. Mason was instrumental in leading the Knights to their fourth consecutive Hamilton Spectator Trophy, along with the teams fourth consecutive Holody Trophy Midwest Division Championship. Mason's 45 regular season wins is a new OHL record amongst goaltenders.

Mason received 76 points in the voting process, followed by Neuvirth, who received 43 points. Thomas McCollum of the Guelph Storm finished third with 28 points.

Mason joins some elite company with past winners including Adam Dennis, Ray Emery, Andrew Raycroft and Manny Legace.



SPORTS

Northville soccer beats Marian, Troy Athens

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

A depleted Northville soccer team took on and beat two of the top teams in the state in a scrimmage tournament at Troy Athens High School on Sunday.

The Lady Mustangs only had 14 of their varsity players because many of their players were still on Spring Breaks. However, Coach Ron Meteyer brought up nine junior varsity players for the shortened contests.

It seemed to be enough as Northville defeated Marian, 2-1.

Northville's premier scorer, senior forward and team co-captain Danielle Toney—already committed to Penn State University—notched both of the team's goals.

Marian scored late in the game to make it a 2-1 finish.

Toney also had two assists against host Troy Athens to help in the 4-2 victory.

The Lady Mustangs used their quickness and ball control style of play to their advantage against the bigger and stronger—but ultimately slower—Lady Red Hawks.

"They have some big girls on their team," Meteyer said. "My assistant coach Eric Brucker and I were looking at some of the girls and they were as big as we were.

They weren't as fast as our girls, though. We tend to draft kids with a lot of speed and it showed in that game."

Junior Sarah Stern is making a name for herself as one of the team's top scorers behind Toney. The speedster led the team with two goals against the Hawks. Northville also got production from Sophomore Jill Alumbaugh and freshman Kelsey Fiscus.

Meteyer said Fiscus proved the team's speed when she beat three, notably closer, Athens players to the ball to lay it in for the score. Stern assisted on the play.

Other varsity players that haven't seen a lot of time so far this season included junior Kyle Richard, who was moved to sweeper for the occasion, and juniors Julia Bawden and Sarah Aquinto. Freshman Tori Wright also saw impressive minutes in the scrimmages.

Junior varsity goalies Allison Cornelius and Elana Reyznar held steady ground for the wins and Elana's twin sister Emily saw plenty of time at midfield.

"It was nice to give some of these girls a chance to play at the varsity level," Meteyer said. "It's nice to take a look at next year and to know that we have depth this year."



Ignition Captain Novi Marojevic (10) scored a sudden-death winning goal in the game three "golden goal" session to send Detroit to the MISL championship game this Saturday at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth.

Ignition advances to championship game

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Detroit Ignition made a splash in its inaugural season by advancing to the Major Indoor Soccer League Championship game.

The first-year team beat the Milwaukee Wave at home in the second and third games of the best-of-three series. The wins earn them a shot at the Philadelphia KiXX in the league championship game at 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth.

Ignition captain Novi

Marojevic boosted the team to the season finale with his sudden-death tally in game three "golden goal" session of the best-of-three series against the Wave on Saturday.

The midfielder beat Wave net-minder Brett Phillips with a two-point goal just 1:20 into the session to give the expansion club the victory in the series.

The series moved to the third game following a 10-8 Ignition victory in game two at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth.

Wave defender Lovelace Ackah started the day's scoring just 42 seconds into the opening

frame of play with a two-point goal as Milwaukee took the early 2-0 advantage. Milwaukee forward Anthony Maher put one past Ignition net-minder Sanaido for two points at 10:25 to extend the Wave lead to 4-0.

Ignition defender Bill Sedgewick registered his first goal of the post season, a three-pointer, at 14:29 as the Wave held on to a 4-3 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

Defender Joe Hammes extended the Wave lead to 6-3 with a two-point goal at 3:24 of the

See Ignition, page 12

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4 DATES & LOCATIONS:			
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SPORTS

Ignition

FROM PAGE 11

second frame. Marojevic banked a three-point goal in off a Wave defender at 11:23 to tie the contest 6-6 at the end of the second quarter.

After a scoreless third quarter, Wave forward Todd Dusosky put a two-point goal past Sanaldo to take the 8-6 lead at 11:13 of the fourth quarter. Ignition rookie forward Worteh Sampson tied up the contest 8-8 just seven seconds later for his first two-point goal of the post season. Sampson registered his second goal of the fourth quarter at 12:49 to give the Ignition its first lead of the game and the win to force a "golden goal" Game Three.

The Ignition-KiXX Championship match-up can be seen on the VERSUS Network.

Ignition 11, Wave 13

The regular season Champion Detroit Ignition fell 13-11 to the Milwaukee Wave in the first game of the MISL's championship series semifinal at U.S. Cellular Arena in Milwaukee.

The game-winning goal was scored by the League's second highest scorer, Greg Howes at the 12:40 mark of the third quarter of play.

Ignition captain Novi Marojevic and midfielder Kyt Selaidopoulos led Detroit with four points each.

Ignition midfielder Kyt Selaidopoulos registered the

expansion club's first-ever playoff goal, a two-pointer, at 3:31 of the opening frame of play to hand Detroit an early 2-0 advantage. Wave midfielder Marcelo Fontana responded with a two-point goal at 4:08 to even the contest. Wave forward Tyrone Gordon put the wave in control with a two-point goal at 10:20. Fontana kept the Wave offense going with a two-point goal 22 seconds later. Detroit forward Hewerton brought the Ignition within one point with a three-point goal at 13:13. The Wave led, 6-5, at the end of the first quarter.

The Wave came out firing and struck first just 13 seconds into second quarter with a two-point restart goal as the Wave stretched their lead to 8-5. Wave defender Joe Hammes buried a three-point power play goal into the back of the net past a stunned Sanaldo at 7:13 to move Milwaukee's lead to 11-5. Selaidopoulos responded for Detroit with a two-point goal at 8:11. The half ended with the Wave leading, 11-7.

The Ignition got on the board in the third quarter with a two-point goal from Marojevic at 9:55 to cut the Milwaukee advantage to two points. Howes handed the Wave a more comfortable 13-9 lead with a short-handed mark at 12:40.

Marojevic tallied his second goal of the evening, a two-pointer, just 55 seconds into the fourth quarter as the Milwaukee lead fell to 13-11 but that is how the game ended, setting stage for game two and three in Plymouth.

Canton hitters start at 4-3-1

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

A revamped Canton Chief varsity baseball team shows promise early in the new season.

Even in the finicky weather, the Chiefs racked up a 4-3-1 record, which isn't bad considering the team is only returning three solid starters from last year. Canton only lost four seniors from last year's roster but six would-be seniors aren't on this year's, either.

That will put the pressure on senior captains Kyle Gring, Brad Barath and Blaine Paden.

Gring is a solid outfielder and pitcher while Barath holds down second and Paden will call games from behind the plate as the starting catcher. Barath could see time in the outfield and help with pitching duties.

Brian Brubaker, another senior, will get his start in the outfield.

Senior Dan Milus, a transfer from New York, will start at third base and pitch when called on.

Junior pitcher and outfielder Ben Vaughn is back with the team this year in a starting role along with fellow junior pitcher Eric Wright.

Rounding out the lineup is junior newcomer Ryan Neu at shortstop; junior first baseman and pitcher Will Tidwell; junior outfielder Matt Barylski; and sophomore Danie Stoney.

Taking on back-up roles are junior infielders Mike Madias and Mike Flis; junior first baseman Cole Motley; and junior outfielder Alex Jerden.

Freshman utility player Kevin Delapaz (pitcher, first base and outfielder) will get an early start on his varsity career. He has already started in most of the team's eight games, according to Canton Coach Scott Dickey.

"We took a look at all of the players and what our needs were

with an RBI. In Game two, Stoney was a force again, going 2-for-3 with two doubles, an RBI and two runs.

Canton hit a wall when they faced off against Brother Rice, easily considered a top-10 team in the state, in a doubleheader at home on Sunday. The Chiefs lost both, 10-0 and 6-5.

In the first game, the Chiefs were only down, 1-0, heading into the sixth inning before Brother Rice took off.

"The wheels fell off," Dickey said. "We had too many walks. You can't walk as many as we did against a team that hits as well as they do; that's how they scored runs."

The offense came alive in the second game.

Barath was a perfect 3-for-3 with three singles and Vaughn was 2-for-3 with two singles.

Regardless of the outcome of the last two games, Dickey likes the make-up of his team.

"We're coming along," he said. "Offense is starting to come along. I think our physical errors have been minimal but we have made some mental mistakes I think because we are young. Pitching is actually pretty solid. If we can cut down on walks and throw some strikes we will be okay."

The Chiefs head to John Glenn at 4 p.m. on Wednesday and host Walled lake Western at 4 p.m. on Friday and Wayne Memorial at 4 p.m. on Monday.

"
You can't walk as many as we did against a team that hits as well as they do; that's how they scored runs.
"

and he fit some of them," Dickey said.

The Chiefs have, so far, survived a tough preseason schedule.

Canton split a doubleheader with an always-tough Catholic Central to open. Then the Chiefs won one and tied one with Dexter, ranked fifth in the state in Division 2, before sweeping Swartz Creek, who's expected to win its league.

In game one, against Swartz Creek, Barath went 2-for-3 at bat with a double and an RBI. Stoney was 2-for-3 with a home run and two RBIs and Paden was 2-for-2

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1. Obituaries



ANDERSON, Vesper Lee, age 92, died March 26, 2007. He was preceded in death by four sisters, Tessie Alls, Georgia McElroy, Callie Acuff and Gertrude Anderson; and brother John Henry Anderson. He leaves to mourn his passing one brother, William Anderson of Detroit, MI, ten nephews, four nieces and a host of grand nieces and nephews. Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.

GARDNER-SIMPSON, Gertrude Irene (nee Carlson), age 93 of Grand Rapids, formerly of Wayne, MI passed away April 9, 2007. Surviving are her devoted family, son Donald (Laurie) of Grand Rapids, grandchildren, Scott (Kristine) of Pacific Palisades, CA, Timothy (Wendy) of Needham, MA and Lindsay of San Francisco, CA, 2 great grandchildren, great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Robert Stevens Gardner (1955), her son Dr. Robert J. Gardner (1978), and her second husband, Harold Simpson (1989). Gertrude was a registered nurse, working in surgery and industry throughout her career. She served 22 years with distinction on the Board of Directors for Garden City Osteopathic Hospital in Garden City, MI. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 21 at 11:00 AM at Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 4291 Cascade Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, with visitation from 10-11 AM before the service. In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to the Robert J. Gardner, D.O. Endowed Scholarship Fund, c/o James Whitehouse, Institutional Advancement, Albion College, 611 E. Porter St., Albion, MI 49224-9903

als to the Robert J. Gardner, D.O. Endowed Scholarship Fund, c/o James Whitehouse, Institutional Advancement, Albion College, 611 E. Porter St., Albion, MI 49224-9903



HEARD, Lee George, age 85, died April 1, 2007. He leaves to mourn his passing four daughters, Sandra (Lawrence) Hale of Inkster, MI, Robbie (Robert) Yharbrough of Westland, MI, Mary Heard of Inkster, MI and Delores Moreland of OH; five sons, Ronald (Etta) Heard of Creedmoor, NC, Donald (Maria) Heard of Detroit, MI, Lee G. Heard, Jr. of Charlotte, NC, Freman (Lynconyer) Heard of Inkster, MI and Freddie (Lonchall) Heard of Detroit, MI.; 30 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews,

relatives and friends. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.

JANACK, Thomas M., Jr., age 57 of Romulus, died April 13, 2007. Dear brother of Mark A. (Judy) Janack of Belleville. Beloved uncle of Mark, Scott (Linda) and Angela Janack as well as Jamie (Kelly) Baker. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas M., Sr. and Eleanor (Behling) Janack. Services were held April 17 at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Rd., Romulus, with Pastor Johnny Bishop, Victoria Life Church officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park. Memorials to New Romulus Animal Shelter.

ROBINSON, Lee Junior, age 78, died March 12, 2007. He was born April 7, 1928 in Pennington Gap, VA., the first born of Arnold Lee Robinson and Rena Fitts Robinson. He

was raised in Pennington Gap with his siblings, Billie Sue and Freddie. Lee asked Jesus to come into his life at an early age. On July 16, 1951, Lee was united in marriage to Shirley Ruth Wolfe, and in 1955 they relocated to Inkster, MI where Lee ultimately became a certified transmission rebuilder and worked for both the Garden City Transmission Shop and later for Avis Car Rental. Lee was a member of First Missionary Baptist Church in Romulus, MI where he was a member of the choir. Lee was preceded in death by his loving wife, Shirley Ruth Robinson; his mother and father, Rena and Arnold Lee Robinson; his sister, Billie Sue Robinson Stacy and his brother, Freddie Robinson. He leaves to cherish his memory, his nephews, Derrick Robinson of Beach Park, IL, Brian Robinson and Marco Stacy of Hampton, VA and Cosmo Stacy of Quinton, VA; his niece Demarius Banks of Hampton, VA; his uncle, Earl (Olivia) Fitts of Inkster, MI; his sisters-in-law, Sophia Robinson of Round

Lake Beach, IL and Marjorie Wolfe of Los Angeles, CA; a devoted cousin, Lois Payne of Westland, MI, and a host of cousins and friends. Cremation rites were accorded by Tri-County Cremation. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



SIMMONS, Gloria Jean, age 53, died April 4, 2007. Gloria was preceded in death by her mother, Bernice; her husband, Charlie; and brothers, Marty and Bernie (Chester). She leaves to cherish her memory her children, Ashanti (Duane) Byrd, Charles (Isiah) Simmons, and step-daughter, Tila Thomas; grandchildren, Duane (Doonie) II and Bria Byrd; her father, Caleb; step-mother, Rosie; brother,

Leroy; father-in-law, J.W. Simmons, Sr.; step-sisters, Patricia Steel and Pamela Harris; sisters-in-law, Grace Simmons, Sandra Simmons, Karon Simmons, Janet Simmons, Zilpah Womack, Sarah Ward and Janie Simmons; brothers-in-law, J.W. Simmons, Jr., Anthony Simmons and George Simmons; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Interment was at United Memorial Gardens. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.

2. In Memoriam

In memory of our mother and grandmother, Cornelia Pittman Burroughs (April 17, 1915-April 10, 2002). "Our minds often seem to wander off and on throughout the day, with thoughts of our loving mother and her loving and wondrous ways. We remember the love she had for us and the beauty that her loving hands created. We see it in her chil-

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Hot stuff

Celebrity cooks vie for 'Belleville's Finest Chili' title

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Things will soon heat-up as area celebrities vie for the title "Belleville's Finest Chili."

The first-ever celebrity chili cook-off, which takes place from 6-8 p.m. tomorrow at the Van Buren Eagles Lodge in the township, promises to be a showdown among area officials and restaurants, each aiming to demonstrate the superiority of their chili recipe, according to Robert McKenna, chairman of the Citizens Helping Improve Public Safety (C.H.I.P.S.).

"Our group is very active in the community and this is a great way to generate funds for the tri-community public safety and fire departments," he said.

Belleville celebrity cooks include Judge David Parrott of the 34th District Court; Jerry

Champagne, director of the Van Buren Public Safety Department; Van Buren Township Fire Chief Mark Nicholai; Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor; Belleville Fire Chief Darwin Loyer and several others. "Belleville's Finest Chili" will then be determined Chicago-style: by popular vote and stuffing the ballot box.

"Everyone will get the chance to sample and then vote for their favorite," McKenna said. "People can also buy extra tickets for \$1 and stuff the ballots as much as they want."

"Vote early and vote often," said Parrott.

Guests will also be able to enjoy hot dogs, chips and refreshments. Prizes from area businesses, along with a first, second and third place title will also be awarded.

Parrott, who likes to make his chili on the hot and spicy side, said he's facing some tough competition.

"When you're talking chili and firefighters involved, that's tough," he said. "My problem is every time I enter into a chili contest it's too hot so this time I'm going to try and tone it down. If I told you my secret though, it wouldn't be a secret anymore. I just hope to have a lot of fun because that's what it's all about."

Loyer said he's not a big cook, however; chili is one thing he does like to make.

"I never make it the same twice," he said. "Usually a lot of beans and not too hot, but with a little bit of my trademark."

"I certainly have a chance of winning. I mean look who my competition is—Gene Taylor—come on," he said jokingly.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children 12 years old and under.

The best in Belleville will also get the chance to showcase their chili at the Performing Arts Alliance Hoedown from 6-10 p.m. on April 24 at the Diamondback Saloon.

Funds from the celebrity chili cook-off will go toward the citizen group and the 'One Hundred Club', which is designed to provide immediate interim financial support to the family of any tri-community public safety official who loses their life in the line of duty.

For more information about the event, call (734) 699-0086.

Xtreme makeover

Troubled club to open as teen nightspot

Scott Spielman
Editor

In some form, Club Xtreme will live on in the City of Wayne.

A week after city officials learned that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (LCC) would not renew the liquor license for the club on Michigan Avenue, they learned that club owner Bob Wojtowicz planed to reopen the club as a teen night club.

"They're not going to be serving any alcohol," said Wayne City Attorney Dick Clark. He said he received the letter on Friday.

The club opened in June of 2006 and city officials have been concerned about virtually constant complaints about the establishment since then. They recently met in two special sessions to discuss the increase in crime in the area of the club, which is just-west of Wayne Road on the westbound side of Michigan Avenue.

Since June of 2004 there have been 17 felony arrests, 257 misdemeanor arrests, 61 misdemeanor warrants, 17 LCC violations as well as 83 parking violations issued near the club. Police have sent 24 reports to the LCC that resulted in 92 citations. Those resulted in several temporary suspensions of the liquor license. One of those suspensions will take place this week-

”

He hasn't shown that he can operate the club responsibly, yet.

City Attorney
Dick Clark

end.

Another violation was recently adjudicated, too, according to Clark, that would have resulted in a 30-day suspension of the license. That is now a moot point, he said.

"It really doesn't matter since they're not going to get the license renewed, anyway," he said.

Those issues caused the council to draft a resolution in opposition to the renewal of the license, which would have taken place at the end of this month. The LCC ruled that the license would not be renewed unless the city council approved of it.

Lawrence Shulman, an attorney representing Wojtowicz and Club Xtreme, said Thursday that he hadn't received notification from the state.

"I think the most likely action will be to challenge it in court,"

Shulman said. "I expect that will be the next step."

Clark said there was no law against opening the club as another type of business that did not serve alcohol.

"My concern with a teen club is that, even if there is no alcohol served there, the management needs to operate it responsibly so we don't just have a different set of problems," Clark said. "He hasn't shown that he can operate the club responsibly, yet."

Operating the former bar as a teen club wouldn't preclude the owners from proceeding with the potential litigation, either, according to Clark.

"We'll just have to wait and see what they're going to do with the legal issue," he said.

Democrats announce new officers

The Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club, which represents Belleville, Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township and Huron Township, has elected new officers to their 2007 board. They are: President John Herman, Vice-President Carl Pedersen, Treasurer Ralph Mayer, Corresponding Secretary Debbie Chamberlain and Corresponding Secretary Mary Lou Carey.

The group also has several upcoming

events and fundraisers including: the annual pig roast from 3-6 p.m. on June 2 at Van Buren Park in Van Buren Township and a booth at the Belleville National Strawberry Festival from June 15-17.

Club meetings take place at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at Paula's Home Cooking, located at 871 Sumpter Road. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Herman at (734) 697-7775.

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DISTURBIA (PG-13) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

PERFECT STRANGER (R) 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55

FIREHOUSE DOG (PG) 12:20, 3:00, 5:20

THE REAPING (R) 7:40, 9:50 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

BLADES OF GLORY (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

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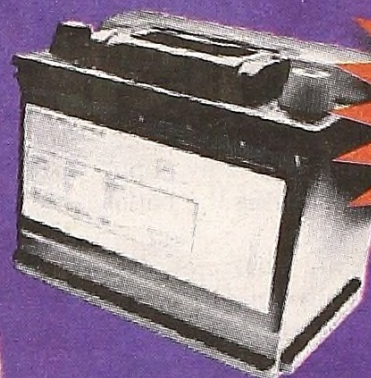
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